

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,151,714 to Pratt ("Pratt"). In addition, the Examiner has objected to claims 2-14 and 16-22 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, Examiner has conceded that claims 2-14 and 16-22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As a result, claims 2-14 have been amended to include all the limitations of Claim 1, claims 16-22 have been amended to include all the limitations of Claim 15, and claims 1 and 15 have been canceled. As a result, claims 2-14 and 16-22 are currently pending. The following remarks are considered by applicant to overcome each of the Examiner's outstanding rejections to current claims 2-14 and 16-22. An early Notice of Allowance is therefore requested.

I. OBJECTION TO CLAIMS 2-14 AND 16-22 AS BEING DEPENDENT UPON A REJECTED BASE CLAIM

The Examiner has rejected claims 2-14 and 16-22 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner has indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim from which they are dependent and any intervening claims. Claims 3-14 are already dependent from Claim 2, and claims 17-22 are already dependent from Claim 16. Accordingly, Claim 2 is currently amended to include all of the limitations of independent Claim 1, from which Claim 2 depends, and Claim 16 is currently amended to include all of the limitations of independent Claim 15, from which Claim 16 depends.

As such, claims 2-14 and 16-22 have been put into allowable form as instructed by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that Examiner remove the rejection to claims 2-14 and 16-22 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Based upon the above remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and its early allowance. Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorney would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact him at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Stephen Chin", is written over a horizontal line.

Stephen M. Chin – Reg. No. 39,938
REEDSMITH LLP
599 Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10022
Tel.: 212.521.5400

CMT:JWT

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